

# Machrihanish Seabird Observatory

Warden - David Millward

Assistant Warden - Jo Goudie

Assistant Warden - Jason Brown

## Photo of the month

### Female Linnet

This shy bird is not as striking as its male counterpart but I find them just as interesting and photogenic.

Photo

**Jo Goudie**



## April Report 2026

What a strange few months we have had for the beginning of the year. The weather feels colder than I remember it should be. I don't know if this has had a bearing on bird numbers but I feel there are not as many as I expect. I have heard few Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat. Photo opportunities have been few.

On the plus side, we have had lots of Dolphin sightings from the observatory, far more than any other year. This has been great for our visitors who get to see something special. Does this mean Dolphin numbers are increasing?

Once the weather warms up we hope to get more work done on the observatory so this coming summer looks to be busy. Volunteers are welcome.

All the best  
Jo

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**Facebook – [Machrihanish Seabird Observatory](#)**  
**Photos by Jo Goudie unless otherwise stated**



**Gannet**

**Gannet** – it is good to see them back in increasing numbers as the month goes on.

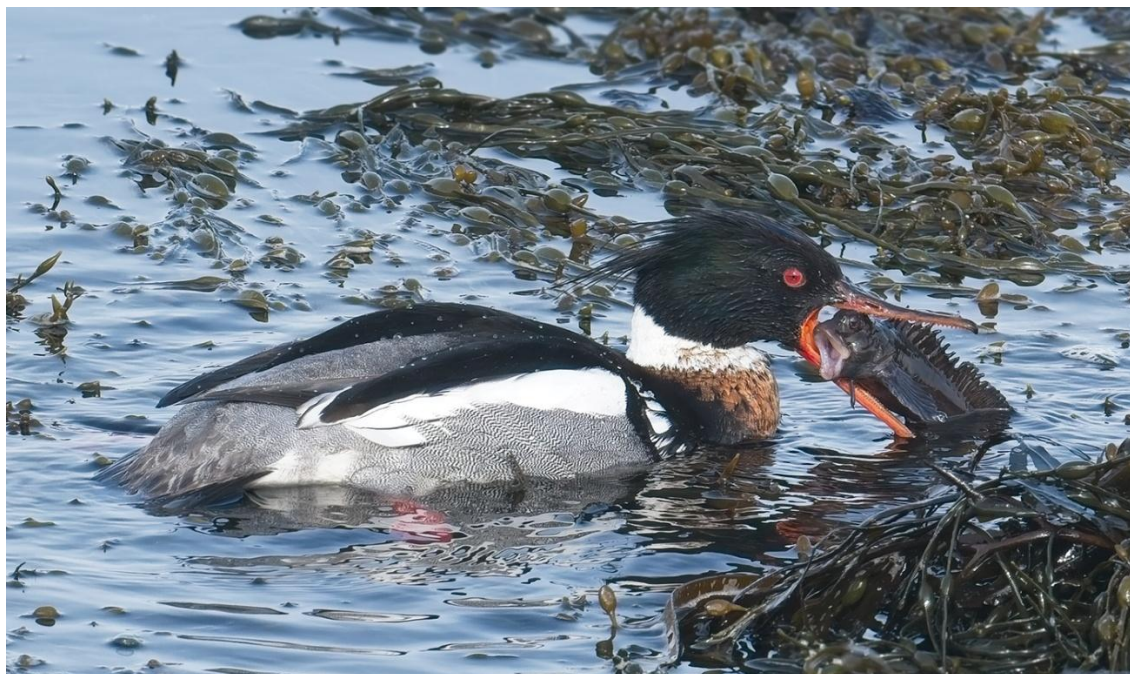


**Great Northern Diver**

**Great Northern Diver** – This was the biggest raft I saw this year, smaller than the last few years.  
1<sup>st</sup> – 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1, 6<sup>th</sup> – 3, 8<sup>th</sup> – 4, 11<sup>th</sup> – 3, 13<sup>th</sup> – 3, 16<sup>th</sup> – 5, 21<sup>st</sup> – 2, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 4, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 4, 24<sup>th</sup> – 3,  
25<sup>th</sup> – 8, 26<sup>th</sup> – 7, 28<sup>th</sup> – 2.

**Red Throated Diver** – 8<sup>th</sup> – 1, 11<sup>th</sup> – 1, 16<sup>th</sup> – 3, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 1, 26<sup>th</sup> – 1, 29<sup>th</sup> – 1.

**Manx Shearwater** – a lone one seen on the 12<sup>th</sup>.



**Red Breasted Merganser with a Blenny**

**Red Breasted Merganser**– 6<sup>th</sup> – 1, 16<sup>th</sup> – 1, 19<sup>th</sup> – 1.

**Black Guillemot** – 11<sup>th</sup> – 1, 13<sup>th</sup> – 1, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 1.

**Guillemot** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3, 8<sup>th</sup> – 1, 10<sup>th</sup> – 6, 11<sup>th</sup> – 2, 12<sup>th</sup> – 3, 13<sup>th</sup> – 4, 16<sup>th</sup> – 17, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 9, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 2, 28<sup>th</sup> – 18, 29<sup>th</sup> – 2, 30<sup>th</sup> – 7.

**Kittiwake** – 16<sup>th</sup> – 5, 26<sup>th</sup> – 1.

**Lesser Black Back Gull** – one seen on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Razorbill** – 1<sup>st</sup> – 5, 6<sup>th</sup> – 2, 7<sup>th</sup> – 20, 8<sup>th</sup> – 3, 10<sup>th</sup> – 28, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 5, 24<sup>th</sup> – 2, 29<sup>th</sup> – 1.

**Sandwich Tern** – 6<sup>th</sup> – 3, 7<sup>th</sup> – 2, 8<sup>th</sup> – 3, 10<sup>th</sup> – 2, 11<sup>th</sup> – 1, 12<sup>th</sup> – 1, 13<sup>th</sup> – 1, 16<sup>th</sup> – 2, 19<sup>th</sup> – 2, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 6, 24<sup>th</sup> – 1, 26<sup>th</sup> – 9, 28<sup>th</sup> – 2.

**Kestrel** – one seen flying in front of the observatory on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. An unusual sight.

**Dunlin** – 21<sup>st</sup> – 1, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 1, 26<sup>th</sup> – 5.

**Turnstone** – 2 seen on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Redshank** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1, 6<sup>th</sup> – 2, 7<sup>th</sup> – 1, 8<sup>th</sup> – 1, 11<sup>th</sup> – 5, 12<sup>th</sup> – 1, 19<sup>th</sup> – 1, 21<sup>st</sup> – 3.

**Arctic Skua** – 2 seen passing through on the 24<sup>th</sup>.



**Ringed Plover**

**Ringed Plover** – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4, 6<sup>th</sup> – 17, 8<sup>th</sup> – 7, 10<sup>th</sup> – 7, 11<sup>th</sup> – 4, 12<sup>th</sup> – 1, 13<sup>th</sup> – 1, 16<sup>th</sup> – 9, 19<sup>th</sup> – 5, 21<sup>st</sup> – 1,  
22<sup>nd</sup> – 6, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 3, 24<sup>th</sup> – 6, 25<sup>th</sup> – 2, 26<sup>th</sup> – 8, 29<sup>th</sup> – 2, 30<sup>th</sup> – 3.



**Wheatear**

**Wheatear** – 6<sup>th</sup> – 2, 7<sup>th</sup> – 3, 10<sup>th</sup> – 2, 11<sup>th</sup> – 1, 12<sup>th</sup> – 2, 19<sup>th</sup> – 2, 21<sup>st</sup> – 2, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 2, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 3, 26<sup>th</sup> – 3, 28<sup>th</sup> – 3, 29<sup>th</sup> – 2.



**White Wagtail**

**White Wagtail** - 6<sup>th</sup> - 1, 7<sup>th</sup> - 2, 8<sup>th</sup> - 2, 10<sup>th</sup> - 1, 13<sup>th</sup> - 3, 16<sup>th</sup> - 5, 19<sup>th</sup> - 3, 22<sup>nd</sup> - 1, 24<sup>th</sup> - 2, 25<sup>th</sup> - 8, 26<sup>th</sup> - 3.

**Swallow** - First ones seen on the 7<sup>th</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup> - 3, 8<sup>th</sup> - 6 then seen regularly for the rest of the month.

**Sedge warbler** - first of the year seen by the stream on the 28<sup>th</sup>.



**Bar Tailed Godwit - breeding male**



**Bar Tailed Godwit – Juvenile or non breeding adult**

**Bar Tailed Godwit – 23<sup>rd</sup> – 3, 24<sup>th</sup> – 1.**

**Curlew – 6<sup>th</sup> – 1, 7<sup>th</sup> – 1, 8<sup>th</sup> – 2, 10<sup>th</sup> – 1, 19<sup>th</sup> – 1, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 2, 24<sup>th</sup> – 1.**

**Whimbrel – 23<sup>rd</sup> – 1, 24<sup>th</sup> – 2, 25<sup>th</sup> – 7, 26<sup>th</sup> – 1, 29<sup>th</sup> – 2.**

**Common Sandpiper – 19<sup>th</sup> – 2, 21<sup>st</sup> – 3, 25<sup>th</sup> – 4, 26<sup>th</sup> – 1.**

**Purple Sandpiper – 1<sup>st</sup> – 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8, 6<sup>th</sup> – 1, 10<sup>th</sup> – 5, 11<sup>th</sup> – 4, 16<sup>th</sup> – 5.**



**Ringed Plover – Looked like it was digging a scrape.**



**Male Eider with crab**

**Barnacle Goose** – 2 flew though on the 16<sup>th</sup> in the company of a **Canada Goose**.

**Greylag Goose** – one seen on the 2, 9 seen on the sea in front of the observatory on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Common Scoter** – 3 seen sleeping together on the sea on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Shelduck** – 16<sup>th</sup> – 3, 19<sup>th</sup> – 2, 21<sup>st</sup> – 6, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 3, 24<sup>th</sup> – 4.



**Goldfinch**



**Male Linnet**

**Linnet** – 10<sup>th</sup> – 2, 21<sup>st</sup> – 2, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 2, 26<sup>th</sup> – 1, 29<sup>th</sup> – 5, 30<sup>th</sup> – 2.



**Otter**, a regular visitor



**Shag with breeding crest**